

REMARKS

The present invention relates to a specific resin composition comprising a resin (A) and a resin (B), as defined in the claims, as constituents, and to a cationic electrodeposition coating composition.

In the Office Action dated February 10, 2004 Applicants appreciate that the Examiner indicated that claims 3, 9, and 12 were merely objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10, 11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) based on U.S. Patent 6,168,864 (Sakamoto et al '864). Furthermore, the same claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent 6,262,146 (Sakamoto et al '146) and U.S. Patent 6,106,684 (Kawakami et al).

Herein, claim 1 has been amended to further define the resin composition, and claim 3 has been set forth in independent form (it is noted that also-allowable claims 9 and 12 depend on claim 3). Claims 2 and 11 have been cancelled.

Applicants respectfully traverse the §102(a) and § 103(a) rejections, for the reasons discussed below.

Novelty (§102(a))

In the Production Example 4 (at column 10) of USP 6,168,864 (Sakamoto et al '864), propargyl-containing aliphatic curing agent is obtained by the reaction of pentaerythritol tetraglycidyl ether with propargilic acid.

The compound obtained by such a reaction has a molecular weight of 640, which is certainly not identical to the present invention (1,000 to 35,000).

Furthermore, the source of introduction of unsaturated functional group in Sakamoto et al '864 is propargilic acid, which is not "at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a polybutadiene derivatives and 2-butyne-1,4-diol" in claim 1.

Accordingly, the present invention in accordance with the claims herein is certainly moreover the invention disclosed in Sakamoto et al '864.

Non-obviousness (§103(a))

In Sakamoto et al '864, a compound having a unsaturated group is used only as a curing agent. This is clear from the description at column 5, lines 34-55.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
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In the present invention, a main object is to use resin (A) to provide many desirable properties such as throwing power, corrosion prevention, impact resistance, chipping resistance, water resistance, corrosion prevention, oil repellency, workability, adhesiveness, and so on.

To achieve such an object, using a resin having a high molecular weight, higher than 1000, is necessary.

In the prior art, there is no description of using resin (A) of the present invention.

Furthermore, the § 103(a) rejection relies upon the Kawakami et al reference in providing basis for modifying the Sakamoto et al reference, with Production Example 2 of Kawakami et al being cited as showing mixing resin (B) with the reaction product of propargyl alcohol and a polyepoxide, etc. However, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 as amended herein is unobvious and is patentable over Sakamoto et al even in view of Kawakami et al. Particularly, in accordance with amended claim 1, only polybutadiene derivatives and 2-butyne-1,4-diol can be used as a source of introduction of the unsaturated functional group, and there is no disclosure thereof in either of Sakamoto et al or Kawakami et al.

Therefore, the present invention is not obvious, and is patentable over the cited prior art.

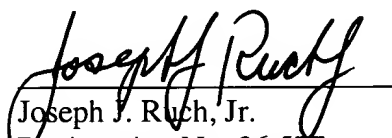
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of now-pending claims 1, 3-10, and 12-14 of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby earnestly solicited.

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If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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